



South Peninsula Hospital
4300 Bartlett Street
Homer, Alaska 99603
907-235-0356

May 15, 2018

Re:

Hello,

I work for South Peninsula Hospital, and I must humbly request a waiver of the 14-day limitation on information requests to allow RHC the ability to evaluate and review funding request 17236291.

A request for information was sent to me via email on 6/16/2017, This occurred while I was on Vacation and away from my office, upon my return from vacation on 6/26/2017 I reviewed the emails I received while away and I did not see the email from Gloria Perez-Mendez nor did I see any email as coming from USAC, **I did also check the RHC web portal for the current status and did not see any change in status or a record of any requests for information. To this date there is still no record in the portal of this information request.** There is also a difference in the account holders from the telecommunications program portal to the healthcare connect fund page in which the secondary account holder is not present for the HCP 11386, this has been corrected.

It wasn't until 7-28-2017 when I received notice that the funding request was denied do to a failure to respond to an information request that I even realized there was an issue. I immediately began investigating and through correspondence with RHC I was able to locate and identify the email requesting information, I informed RHC of this and requested the ability to answer the question raised. I provided information to this end as directed by Ed Rovetto.

on March 30th 2018 I was informed RHC denied my request to answer the requested information and also denied funding request 17236291

I do believe we would have been able to answer any questions raised to USACs satisfaction and receive full funding.

I do recognize the immense number of requests the RHC must process and respect the efforts that go into keeping so many requests flowing in a timely manner. However, the financial cost this denial will place on South Peninsula Hospital is undue for a small qualifying non-profit rural hospital that has enjoyed the benefits of discounted broadband access for over a decade, with



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no fraud, waste or abuse in our record. Please don't allow rigid adherence to certain rules and requirements that are procedural in nature prevent the goals of ensuring access to discounted broadband internet services. With the changes in the healthcare environment high speed internet access has become crucial to saving lives and bettering our small community and it best serves the public interest to reverse the RHC decision to deny funding.

I ask for this waiver to allow RHC the ability to examine South Peninsula's situation and restore funding for the internet at a discounted cost, we also ask to have USAC waive any procedural deadlines such as invoicing that might be necessary to complete the application process

Thank you for your consideration.

Ramon V. Reyes
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South Peninsula Hospital
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History:

FRN 17236291 is meant to cover the time period between the evergreen status expiration date placed by RHC and the true expiration date of the existing contract between Alaska Communications and South Peninsula Hospital.

South Peninsula Hospital entered into a contract with Alaska Communications Inc. as a result of the 461 filed on 5/6/2014, the contract was signed on 6/25/2014 however service did not start until 2/9/2015 which according to the contract this is the effective date, this means South Peninsula is under contract until 2/8/2018.

RHC granted Evergreen status to this contract however the evergreen expiration date is based on the signing of the contract not when the contract took effect. This leaves South Peninsula



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Hospital with a requirement to file for month to month to cover an existing contract between the end of the evergreen funding commitment 06/24/2017 and the end of the contract 2/8/2018.

Due to the mismatching evergreen expiration dates South Peninsula opted to extend the contract as allowed in the proposal and contract putting the new contract expiration date at 2/8/2019, which should have the effect of extending the evergreen expiration date.